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OO RUEHAG RUEHROV  
DE RUEHTH #0096 0231325  
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1063  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 5040  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0279

S E C R E T ATHENS 000096

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/23/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMPI](#) [GR](#) [SY](#)  
SUBJECT: GREECE WANTS TO SUPPORT SYRIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

REF: 07 SECSTATE 171106

Classified By: DEPPOLCOUNS PAUL CARTER. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

[¶1.](#) (S) DepPolCouns discussed reftel s said  
the GOG would look for a wayperhaps in the fQoumoutsakos.

[¶2.](#) (S) Ayfantis believed this was a good time to "kick" Syria  
"so they'll adjust course." He explained that Greece was  
upset by the Syrian use of the Turkish-controlled northern  
Cypriot port of Famagusta, despite Greek reminders that the  
port was supposed to be closed to international traffic.  
Syrian President Assad often argued that he deserved support  
from the international community as the only viable Syrian  
leader -- "It's either me or the Muslim Brotherhood."  
According to Ayfantis, this was somewhat true, but it might  
nonetheless be good to signal that the EU was looking at  
successors.  
SPECKHARD